On-shore and off-shore oil exploration

2277. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of oil produced in the country both on-shore and off-shore separately as compared to consumption;

(b) whether Government have any concrete plans to increase the total on-shore/off-shore production of oil;

(c) what are the main areas in the country where seismic surveys are being conducted to identify more areas for on-shore/off-shore exploration; and

(d) what are the feedback from these explorations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRAMAHAJAN); (a) Production and consumption of crude oil in the country during 2002-2003 and 2003-04 (upto September, 2003) were as follows:-

Year	Crude Oil Production (MMT)			Crude Oil Consumption (MMT)
	On-shore	Off-shore	Total	
2002-03	11.47	21.57 5.73	33.04	110.6
2003-04 (April-Sep.)	10.57		16 30	57.5

(MMT—Million Metric Tonne)

(b) Several important steps have been taken to increase the oil and gas production in the country, which include the following:

(i) Implementation of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR,>/i< -.proved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes to improve recovery factor of ex.stir j mapr fields, in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in a[r]celerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) Production Sharing Contracts are in operation in 70 blocks offered under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and in 23 pre-NELP blocks.

(iii) Exploration in new areas, especially in deepwater and difficult frontier areas, as also exploration in the deeper layers of the producing fields.

(iv) Faster development of newly discovered fields and stepping up of use of new technologies for seismic surveys, workover, simulation operations, drilling of wells, etc., in producing areas.

(c) and (d) Seismic surveys are being conducted by the National Oil Companies namely, ONGC and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) as well as Private Companies/Joint Ventures in their allotted areas located in the States of Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Tripura, and Uttar Pradesh as also in the offshore areas.

The Seismic survey data, after processing and interpretation, provide information only about the presence of structures/leads and prospects. Presence or otherwise of hydrocarbons is known only after exploratory drilling.

Decontrol of gas price

2278. SHRI RAVULACHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to decontrol subsidized gas price;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the impact of it on power (electricity) and fertilizer industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Natural Gas prices were last revised in September, 1997 arid the prices were to be reviewed and revised before April, 2000. However, prices have not been revised and the same pricing regime continues. It has been envisaged to decontrol the gas prices in future.

(c) The impact of the proposed increase on power (electricity) and fertilizer industries will not be significant.